

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 AF-06 IO-10 OPIC-03

OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /097 W
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O R 051305Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4131

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL MILITARY SITUATION

REF: LISBON 5153 DTG 041250Z SEP 75

1. THE POLITICAL MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 11:00 A.M. LOCAL
SEPT 5 FOLLOWS:

PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS LAST NIGHT TO GO AHEAD WITH AFM
ASSEMBLY AND CONTINUE GONCALVES IN OFFICE UNTIL NEW PM DESIGNATED
HAVE HEIGHTENED THE TENSION. AT PRESIDENT'S URGING, FABIAO
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CAME OUT FOR HOLDING THE ASSEMBLY ON SCHEDULE TODAY. THIS HAS

RESULTED IN POSTPONEMENT OF ASSEMBLY FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 PM AS ELEMENTS OF THE ARMY ASSEMBLY AND THE ANTUNES GROUP MEET THIS MORNING IN TANCOS TO CONSIDER THE ARMY'S POSITION.

3. AT THE AIR FORCE ASSEMBLY LAST NIGHT, THE VOTE WAS 137 TO 6 WITH 19 ABSTENTIONS FOR AF CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA. AIR FORCE DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH DECISION ARMY MAKES ON ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S ASSEMBLY.

4. COSTA GOMES AND VASCO GONCALVES ARE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY, BUT HAVE NOT LEFT LISBON YET. "O JORNAL" REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT ONE OF THE MILITARY (A MEMBER OF THE NINE, WE UNDERSTAND FROM ANOTHER SOURCE) SAID THAT IF COSTA GOMES WENT AHEAD WITH THE MEETING IT WOULD BE HIS LAST DECISION AS PRESIDENT. ANOTHER EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS THAT ARMY IS CONSIDERING PHYSICALLY BLOCKING THE ASSEMBLY IN ORDER TO PREVENT IT FROM TAKING PLACE.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE THE BRAVE WORDS FROM THE ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMP, FACT IS THAT THEY ARE UNSURE OF WHOM THEY CAN COUNT ON, PARTICULARLY COSTA GOMES AND FABIAO, AND FACE AN ENEMY IN THE PRO-GONCALVES GROUP THAT IS PREPARED TO GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO HANG ON. THE PRESIDENT'S INSISTANCE ON THE MEETING ALSO BRINGS INTO PLAY THE INSTINCTIVE MILITARY REACTION TO OBEY ORDERS FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF. HE SEEMS DETERMINED TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH THE GONCALVES CROWD.

6. IN ADDITION TO THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS DESIRE TO AVOID THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD, THERE IS A REAL FEAR THAT LEFT MILITARY UNITS IN LISBON AND THE PARTY MILITIAS WILL TAKE OVER THE CITY. MILITARILY, THIS PRESENTS NO PROBLEM AS LISBON CAN BE ISOLATED. HOWEVER, THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS FEAR THAT THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES WILL BE HELD HOSTAGE IN LISBON BY THE LEFTISTS.

7. SPINOLA'S INOPORTUNE RETURN TO EUROPE HAS BEEN A GREAT BOON TO THE FAR LEFT, WHICH CAN NOW CLAIM THAT ALL LEFTISTS MUST UNITE IN THE FACE OF A THREAT FROM THE ULTRA RIGHT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON05187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750307-0720
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750980/aaaactag.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 5153
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL MILITARY SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006